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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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ELIZABETH WATERMAN,

Case No. 2:24-cv-04802-AB-AJR

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Plaintiff(s),

**ORDER SETTING SCHEDULING
CONFERENCE IN CIVIL CASE**

12

v.

[REVISED MARCH 15, 2024]

13

TIKTOK INC.,

Date: November 1, 2024

14

Time: 10:00 a.m.

15

Courtroom: 7B

16

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**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTROLS THIS CASE
AND DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

18

This case has been assigned to Judge André Birotte Jr. and is set for a Scheduling Conference on the above date in Courtroom 7B of the First Street Courthouse, 350 West First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. If plaintiff has not already served the operative complaint on *all* defendants, plaintiff *promptly* must do so and must file proofs of service within three days thereafter. Defendants also must timely serve and file their responsive pleadings, and within three days thereafter, file proofs of service. At the scheduling conference, the Court will set a date by which motions to amend the pleadings or add parties must be heard.

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The Scheduling Conference will be held pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b). The parties are reminded of their obligations under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) to make

1 initial disclosures without awaiting a discovery request, and under Fed. R. Civ. P.
2 26(f) to confer on a discovery plan by 21 days before the Scheduling Conference.
3 The Court encourages counsel to agree to begin to conduct discovery actively
4 *before* the Scheduling Conference.

5 **I. Joint Rule 26(f) Report**

6 The Joint Rule 26(f) Report **must be filed by 14 days** before the Scheduling
7 Conference.

8 The Report must be prepared and signed by all parties. Unless the parties
9 agree otherwise, the plaintiff bears the primary responsibility of drafting the Report
10 and filing it on all parties' behalf. A "Joint" Report means a single report,
11 regardless of how many separately represented parties there are. The Joint Rule
12 26(f) Report must specify the date of the Scheduling Conference on the caption
13 page. It must report on all matters described below, as specified by Fed. R. Civ. P.
14 26(f) and Local Rule 26:

- 15 A. Statement of the Case: A short synopsis (not to exceed two pages) of the
16 main claims, counterclaims, and affirmative defenses.
- 17 B. Subject Matter Jurisdiction: A statement of the specific basis of federal
18 jurisdiction, including supplemental jurisdiction. If there is a federal
19 question, cite the federal law under which the claim arises.
- 20 C. Legal Issues: A brief description of the key legal issues, including any
21 unusual substantive, procedural or evidentiary issues.
- 22 D. Parties, Evidence, etc.: A list of parties, percipient witnesses, and key
23 documents on the main issues in the case. For conflict purposes,
24 corporate parties must identify all subsidiaries, parents, and affiliates.
- 25 E. Damages: The *realistic* range of provable damages.
- 26 F. Insurance: Whether there is insurance coverage, the extent of coverage,
27 and whether there is a reservation of rights.
- 28 G. Motions: A statement of the likelihood of motions seeking to add other

1 parties or claims, file amended pleadings, transfer venue, etc.

2 H. Dispositive Motions: A description of the issues or claims that any party
3 believes may be determined by motion for summary judgment.

4 I. Manual for Complex Litigation: Whether all or some of the procedures
5 of the Manual for Complex Litigation should be utilized.

6 J. Status of Discovery: A discussion of the present state of discovery,
7 including a summary of completed discovery.

8 K. Discovery Plan: A detailed discovery plan, as contemplated by Fed. R.
9 Civ. P. 26(f). State what, if any, changes in the disclosures under Fed. R.
10 Civ. P. 26(a) should be made, the subjects on which discovery may be
11 needed, whether discovery should be conducted in phases or otherwise
12 be limited, whether applicable limitations should be changed or other
13 limitations imposed, and whether the Court should enter other orders. A
14 statement that discovery will be conducted as to all claims and defenses,
15 or other vague description, is not acceptable.

16 L. Discovery Cut-off: A proposed discovery cut-off date. This means the
17 final day for **completion of discovery**, including resolution of all
18 discovery motion.

19 M. Expert Discovery: Proposed dates for initial and rebuttal expert witness
20 disclosures, and an expert discovery cut-off date under Fed. R. Civ. P.
21 26(a)(2).

22 N. Settlement Efforts to Date and Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”):
23 The parties MUST include a statement of what settlement discussions
24 have occurred to date (excluding any statement of the terms discussed).
25 The parties must also indicate their preferred ADR Procedure. If a Notice
26 to Parties of Court-Directed ADR Program (Form ADR-08) was filed in
27 this case, the Court will refer it to the magistrate judge, the Court
28 Mediation Panel, or to private mediation (at the parties' expense). The

1 parties must indicate their ADR preference. No case will proceed to trial
2 unless all parties, including an officer with full settlement authority for
3 corporate parties, have appeared personally at an ADR proceeding.

4 O. Trial Estimate: A realistic estimate, in days, of the court time required
5 for trial and whether trial will be by jury or by court. Each side should
6 specify the number of witnesses it contemplates calling. If the time
7 estimate for trial given in the Joint Rule 26(f) Report exceeds four court
8 days, counsel must be prepared to discuss in detail the basis for the
9 estimate.

10 P. Trial Counsel: The name(s) of the attorney(s) who will try the case.

11 Q. Independent Expert of Master: Whether this is a case in which the Court
12 should consider appointing a master pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 53 or an
13 independent scientific expert. (The appointment of a master may be
14 especially appropriate if there are likely to be substantial discovery
15 disputes, numerous claims to be construed in connection with a summary
16 judgment motion, a lengthy *Daubert* hearing, a difficult computation of
17 damages, etc.).

18 R. Schedule Worksheet: A Schedule of Pretrial and Trial Dates Worksheet
19 (“Worksheet”) is attached to this Order and is available for your use as
20 a Word file on Judge Birotte’s webpage. Complete this Worksheet and
21 include it with your Joint Rule 26(f) Report. The parties **MUST** file a
22 completed Worksheet with their Joint Rule 26(f) Report. The Court
23 **ORDERS** the parties to make every effort to agree on dates. The entries
24 in the “Suggest. Weeks Before FPTC” column reflect a default schedule
25 that the Court believes is appropriate for most cases and will allow the
26 Court to rule on potentially-dispositive motions sufficiently in advance
27 of the Final Pretrial Conference. However, if counsel believes a case
28 warrants either an abbreviated or an extended schedule, they may so

1 propose. Each date should be stated as month, day, and year, e.g.,
2 10/03/2025. Hearings must be on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Other deadlines
3 (those not involving the Court) can be any day of the week. Trials are set
4 for Mondays. Counsel must avoid holidays. The Court may order
5 different dates from those counsel proposed. The discovery cut-off date
6 is the last day by which all depositions must be completed, responses to
7 previously-served written discovery must be provided, and motions
8 concerning discovery disputes must be **heard**. The “last date” for
9 motions is the last date on which motions may be **heard**, not filed. If the
10 parties wish the Court to set dates in addition to those on the Worksheet,
11 they may so request by a separate Stipulation and Proposed Order. This
12 is often appropriate for class actions, patent cases, and cases for benefits
13 under Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”).

14 S. Other issues: A statement of any other issues affecting the status or
15 management of the case (e.g., unusually complicated technical or
16 technological issues, disputes over protective orders, extraordinarily
17 voluminous document production, non-English speaking witnesses,
18 ADA-related issues, discovery in foreign jurisdiction, etc.) and any
19 proposals concerning severance, bifurcation, or other ordering of proof.

20 The Joint Rule 26(f) Report should set forth the above-described information
21 under section headings corresponding to those in this Order.

22 **II. Scheduling Conference**

- 23 A. Continuances: A request to continue the Scheduling Conference will be
24 granted only for good cause.
- 25 B. Vacating the Scheduling Conference: The Court often vacates the
26 Scheduling Conference and issues the Scheduling Order based solely on
27 the Joint Rule 26(f) Report.
- 28 C. Participation: If there is a hearing, lead trial counsel must attend.

1 **III. Notice to be Provided by Counsel**

2 Plaintiff's counsel or, if plaintiff is appearing pro se, defendant's counsel,
3 must provide this Order to any parties who first appear after the date of this Order
4 and to parties who are known to exist but have not yet entered appearances.

5 **IV. Disclosures to Clients**

6 Counsel are ordered to deliver to their clients a copy of this Order and of the
7 Court's Order Re: Jury/Court Trial, which will contain the schedule that the Court
8 sets at the Scheduling Conference.

9 **V. Court's Website**

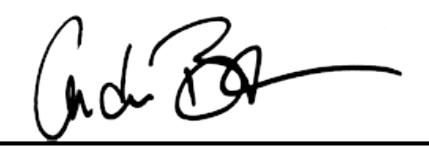
10 This and all other generally applicable orders of this Court are available on the
11 Central District of California website, www.cacd.uscourts.gov, and on Judge
12 Birotte's webpage, <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-andré-birotte-jr>

13 The Local Rules are also available on the Court's website.

14 **Parties appearing pro se must comply with Federal Rules of Civil
15 Procedure and the Local Rules. See Local Rules 1-3, 83-2.2.3**

16 The Court thanks the parties and their counsel for their anticipated
17 cooperation.

18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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21 DATED: September 11, 2024

22 HONORABLE ANDRÉ BIROTTE JR.
23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL AND TRIAL DATES WORKSHEET

Please complete this worksheet jointly and file it with your Joint Rule 26(f) Report.
The Court ORDERS the parties to make every effort to agree on dates.

Case No.	Case Name:		
Trial and Final Pretrial Conference Dates		Plaintiff's Proposed Date mm/dd/yyyy	Defendant's Proposed Date mm/dd/yyyy
Check one: [] Jury Trial or [] Court Trial [Monday at 8:30 a.m., about 18 months after Complaint filed] Estimated Duration, in days:		____ days	____ days
Final Pretrial Conference ("FPTC") [L.R. 16], Hearing on Motions In Limine [Friday at 11:00 a.m., at least 17 days before trial]			
Event¹ Note: Hearings must be on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Other dates can be any day of the week.		Suggest. Weeks Before FPTC ²	Plaintiff's Proposed Date mm/dd/yyyy
Last Date to Hear Motions to Amend Pleadings/Add Parties [Friday]		12-16 weeks after Sched. Conf.	Defendant's Proposed Date mm/dd/yyyy
Non-Expert Discovery Cut-Off (no later than deadline for <u>filing</u> dispositive motion)		17	
Expert Disclosure (Initial)			
Expert Disclosure (Rebuttal)			
Expert Discovery Cut-Off		12 ³	
Last Date to Hear Motions [Friday] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 56 Motion due at least 5 weeks before hearing • Opposition due 2 weeks after Motion is filed • Reply due 1 week after Opposition is filed For Cross-Motions, See Standing Order.		12	
Deadline to Complete Settlement Conference [L.R. 16-15]		10	
Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") Procedure (select one): (Magistrate Judge [with Court approval] , Court's Mediation Panel, or Private Mediation)		<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Mag. Judge <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Panel <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Private	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Mag. Judge <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Panel <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Private
Trial Filings (first round) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motions in Limine • Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law [L.R. 16-4] • Witness Lists [L.R. 16-5] • Joint Exhibit List [L.R. 16-6.1] • Joint Status Report Regarding Settlement • Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law [L.R. 52] (court trial only) • Declarations containing Direct Testimony, if ordered (court trial only) 		3 minimum	
Trial Filings (second round) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppositions to Motions In Limine • Joint Proposed Final Pretrial Conference Order [L.R. 16-7] • Joint/Agreed Proposed Jury Instructions (jury trial only) • Disputed Proposed Jury Instructions (jury trial only) • Joint Proposed Verdict Forms (jury trial only) • Joint Proposed Statement of the Case (jury trial only) • Proposed Additional Voir Dire Questions, if any (jury trial only) • Evidentiary Objections to Decls. of Direct Testimony (court trial only) 		2 minimum	

¹ The parties may seek dates for additional events by filing a separate Stipulation and Proposed Order. **This is often appropriate for class actions, patent cases, and ERISA cases.**

² This is the Court's recommended default timeline for certain events. The parties are welcome to propose different intervals as needed for their case.

³ The parties may wish to consider cutting off expert discovery prior to the deadline for *filing* an MSJ.